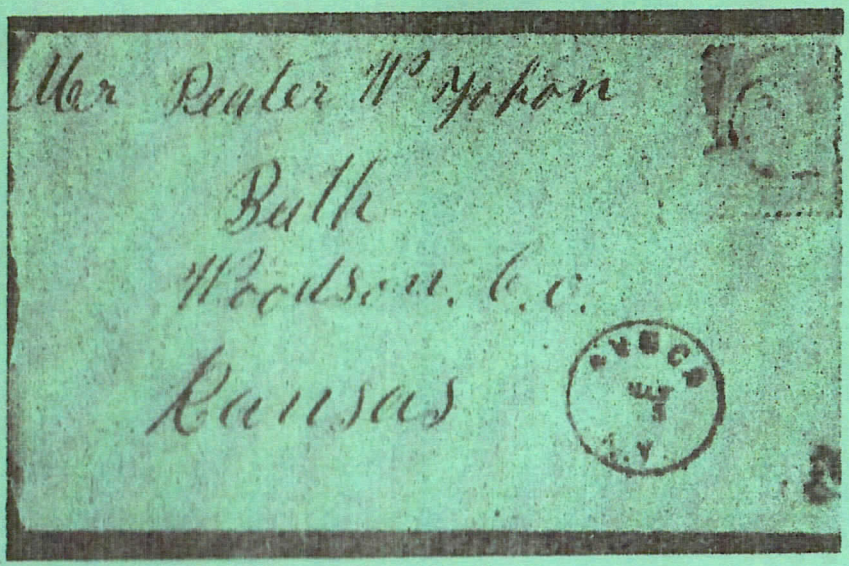
IN THE BEGINNING



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IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 4 - No. 15 July - 1971

Lester A. Harding - Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES—

On page 17, of the April, 1971, issue of IN THE BEGINNING was a picture without a caption. Many of our readers will recognize the picture as the Dry Creek Cave, with the writer standing on the Inscription Rock at the mouth of the cave.

* * * * *

We are still listing the price of $2.00 a year for IN THE BEGINNING, but may have to raise some after January 1, 1972, because of the increase in postage. If it was not for the Patron's whose names appear on the back page of the quarterly it could not now make its own way.

The Yates Center Baseball Club—Picture taken Sept. 22, 1897. Standing, left to right; Chas. McKissick, pitcher; Arden C. Flanders, catcher; Chas. Stitcher, 1st base; Willie Barnett, 2nd base; "Shorty" Adams, short stop; Ernest Gualt, 3rd base; Walter Shenk, left field; Ralph Rankin, center field; Jack Rogers, right field; Art Fullington, Sub.; Maynard Evans, manager.

WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The 30 by 40 foot cinder block addition to the museum has been all painted-walls and floor. Many articles have been added to our growing museum during the past year. In fact hardly a week passes but that we are offered something for the museum. Our next project will be the finishing of the upstairs, that is being planned for period rooms. Due to the widening of US-54 by the museum and lack of parking space there was no planned day for the opening.

* * * * *

The Yates Center High School Stage band furnished the program at the March meeting of the Historical Society, at the Woodson Hotel. The group was made up of 20 members and their director, Mr. Hal Boland.

* * * *

At the May meeting a short Memorial service was held for the seven members that have died since last Memorial Day. Mrs. Anna Trusler, Mrs. Margaret Jane Cooper, Mrs. Lou A. Paske, Leo W. Mills, Frank V. Robbins, Harry A. Webster, George N. Williams. A candle-lighting service was presented.

* * * * *

The IN MEMORIAN List since the last issue is as follows.

Harry A. Webster 97 February 11, 1971

While Mr. Webster had not been a resident of Woodson County for a good many years he was born here in July, 1875, just three months before Yates Center became a town. His remarkable memory of by-gone days was a great help to the editor of this publication.

* * * * *

George N. Williams 77 March 23, 1971

Mr. Williams lived his entire life in Woodson County. He became a Life Member of the Historical Society in 1970.

IN THE BEGINNING
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$2.00 per year 50 cents a copy

* * * * *

Join and support the Woodson County Historical Society. It merits the support of every one interested in the past, present and the future of Woodson County.

—Membership Dues to The Historical Society —
Life Membership—$25.00-Regular Membership—$2.00 per year.

THE STOLL FAMILY –

George Stoll was born in Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland. He was the youngest of the five children of Daniel and Elizabeth Werner Stoll. They were farmers in the Alps. In 1853 when George was five years old the family emigrated to the United States. They crossed the Atlantic in a sail ship, the voyage taking three months. From their home in Switzerland they journeyed to Paris, then to Havre where they boarded the ship which carried them to New Orleans. From there they traveled by steamboat to Louisville, Kentucky, and then by train to Henryville, Ind. where they rented a farm for about two years.

During the last few months of the Civil War, George who was just a boy enlisted in the Second U. S. Infantry. When George Stoll was twenty-two years old he came west to Kansas, stopping at Humboldt where he worked for a couple of years. Here he met and married Charlotte Thomas on July 3, 1871. The young couple moved into Woodson County the next year where they purchased and homesteaded a quarter section-the northwest quarter of section 26-twp. 26 and range 16. This was a raw unimproved piece of prairie situated along one of the branches of Buffalo Creek.

George and Elizabeth Stoll were the parents of thirteen children, namely; Georgia, John Henry, Albert Oliver, Fred W., Clyde Chase, Guy Herbert, Daisy Olive, Leo Earl, Hugh Carl, Ray Verner, Emil A., George Glenn, Byrl Byron.

With the exception of Georgia who passed away in 1891 at the age of eighteen, and Fred W., who died at the age of two in 1880, the large family of George Stoll grew up on the homestead and many years of happiness and perhaps some sorrows were experienced by them. Most of the boys played baseball and had a team of their own. Most of them married and made homes near by. All thirteen children were born on the homestead.

John H. was born Sept. 24, 1874. He was married to Pearl Houston, they had one child, Vera. He was later married to Ida Mae Slater. They had had six children; John Jr., Velda (Mrs. Carl Lindquist), Bertha (Mrs. James Williams), Floyd, Ned Charles, and Mary.

Albert Oliver was born Dec. 30, 1876. He was married to Anna Gray. Their children were; Ruby (Mrs. Roy Robertson) and Dale Stoll.

Guy H. was born Aug. 29, 1883. He married Bessie Mitchell. Their children were; Lora Fae (Vincent), Edward, Calvin, Harold, and Donald.

Daisy Olive was born Oct. 21, 1885. She was married to Tilden Swinney. Their children were; George, Lois (Mears), Delyte (Ratzenberg), Phyllis (Mrs. Heber Richens).

Leo Earl was born Nov. 26, 1887. Was married to Florence Tustison. Their children were; Virginia (Mrs. Arthur Toedman) Eleanor (Mrs. Charles Wilhite) and Joyce (Mrs. Barnes).

Hugh Carl was born Sept. 14, 1889. He was married to Elsie Jones. Their children were Omer, Curtis, Violet (Mrs. Chaunce Turner), Richard and Evelyn. After his wife Elsie passed away Carl was married to Mrs. Martha Bishop.

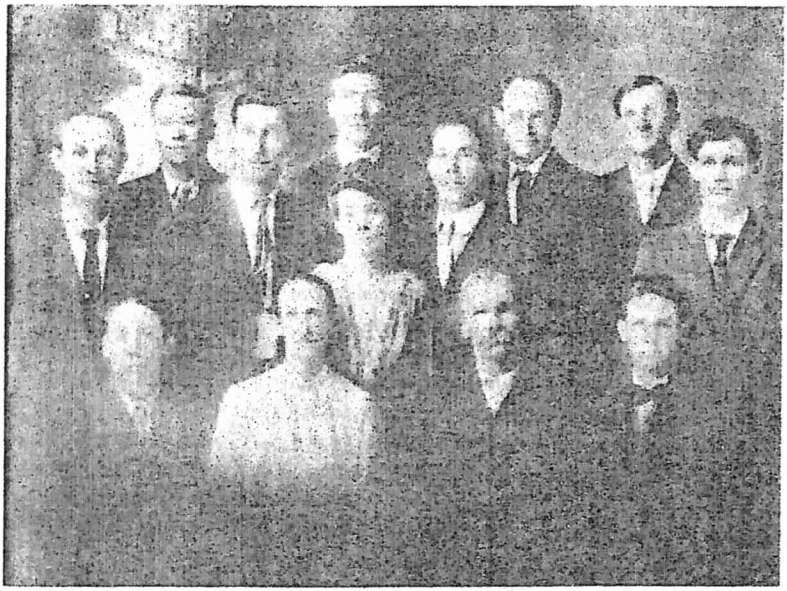
Ray V. was born Mar. 17, 1892. He was married to Neva Dexter. Their children were; Eileen (Mrs. Fowler Kesterson) Shirley Ann (Mrs. Royal Elder), Lawrence and Alan Stoll.

Emil A. was born Nov. 8, 1893. He was married to Manila Roush. They had two children; Arlita and Wayne. Later he married Bea Hall.

George Glenn was born Dec. 22, 1895. He married Geraldine Mears. Their children were, Maxine and Carol (Mrs. Bowers.)

Byrl Byron was born Aug. 22, 1899. He was married to Gladys King. They had one daughter Kathy.

For many years the name of Stoll was very familiar in the Ridge and Rose communities. There was some members of the Stoll family going to the Ridge school for over fifty years. In 1971, about 100 years after George and Charlotte Stoll moved into the Ridge vicinity, there are only two of the family in that immediate vicinity. That is Glenn and daughter Maxine Stoll.



The Stoll boys standing-from left; John, Ray V., Clyde, Leo, Glenn, Guy, Albert, Carl-Center-Mrs. Daisy Swinney. Seated; Byrl, Mrs. Charlotte Stoll, George Stoll, and Emil.

PIQUA AND VICINITY-

Early history of the eastern part of Woodson County and the beginning of Piqua. Compiled by Lester A. Harding as recalled from memory by W. J. O'Donnell, who spent nine years of his boyhood there, along with a few facts taken from Woodson County history. This was first written in April, 1962.

After several unsuccessful attempts by different railway companies to build a railroad east and west through Woodson County dating from 1867, the first successful attempt was in 1881 when the St. Louis, Fort Scott and Wichita Railway obtained a right-of-way across the county..

The Missouri, Kansas and Texas (Katy) Railway was the first railroad to be built in Woodson County. As it was built from Junction City to Parsons, it crossed the northeast corner of the county, going through Neosho Falls. About three-quarters of a mile south of where Piqua now is the M.K.T. railway put in a siding called Bramlette.

The U. S. Government had given land grants to the M.K.T. railway to every other section of land for ten miles on each side of the proposed railroad. This was around 1870. This in turn was sold by the M.K.T. to settlers for homesteads, selling for around three to five dollars an acre to finance the building of the railroad.

The railway company that followed the M.K.T. railway had to ask the various townships to issue railway bonds to help finance the building of the railroads. These bonds were voted on in the townships which the proposed railroad was to go, and time after time were voted down. Owl Creek and Belmont townships seemed to be the ones that would vote the bonds down with the most majority of resident votes.

However the St. Louis, Ft. Scott and Wichita Western Company just asked two townships for bonds-Center township to furnish $28,000 and Toronto township $22,000. The voters of these townships passed the bonds by quite a majority as this was the first railroad for either township or cities of Yates Center and Toronto.

The construction gang building the road came from Fort Scott through Iola. About a mile inside Woodson County this railroad crossed the M.K.T. track about six miles down the track from Neosho Falls. Here a depot was built, the station to serve both railroads. One Y was built on the east side of the depot, and one on the west side. Besides the depot a section house was built to be used as a residence, a short distance to the northwest of the depot where a grove of oak trees now stand. The superintendent of construction was from Piqua, Ohio, and so gave the new junction the name of Piqua, Kansas.

Patrick O'Donnell had joined the construction gang at Iola, but when the station was built at Piqua Mr. O'Connell was appointed as section foreman and with his family took up residence in the section house, thus being the first family to occupy the first house in Piqua.

The railroad was then built on through Yates Center and to Toronto, where a division point was made. The railroad was later built from Wichita east to Toronto. As Mr. O'Donnell took over as section foreman on this line his salary was $45 a month with residence furnished. The section hands received $1.10 a day for a ten-hour day.

By 1883 Piqua became quite a railway center with four daily passenger trains and four freights with many extra freights. The engines were small and the trains contained from 12 to 20 cars. The land on the north side of the new railroad belonged to Geo. A. Bowlus of Iola and was raw prai-

rie land. On the south side the land was owned by P. C. T. Buck who used it for farming purposes.

The townsite of Piqua was surveyed and plotted into streets, alleys and lots March 16, 1882 and was recorded as the townsite of Piqua April 1, 1882, the north side of the main street being in one section and the south side in another section.

EARLY SETTLERS ON FARMS AROUND PIQUA—

Early settlers who lived on farms within a radius of three miles of the little town when it was built were; (If you went north and west you found the following families) Ed Yingling, J. M. Purcell, McClain, Cloud, Logan Wright, J. B. Craig, Reeves, Dursham, and due north, Finch, (Mr. Finchs son Harley married Rebecca Harris and Mrs. Rebecca Finch lived on that farm for many years), Dillon, Slack, Herdman, Shadwick, Davis, James Riley, father of William Riley.

And due south—P. C. T. Buck, Wheeler, B. F. Crabbe, Dix, Henry Bereson, Shoemaker, —East and south — Crooks, Hildebrandt, Hays, Raven, McCabe, Young, Eldridge, Preston, — Northeast — Keithley, See, Murphy, Barnhart, Pease, Ackerman, Roebuck.

EARLY RESIDENTS OF PIQUA—

The following were the early day residents of Piqua; Patrick O'Donnell, Murry Street, McClure, J. W. Kesterson, Dr. Huff, J. M. Carpenter (who was Justice of the Peace), John Kipp, Sr., John Kipp, Jr., D. W. Ream, M. A. Weckerly, Geo. Calvin Hays, Gus Vogelsang, Henry Vogelsang, Wm. Grogman, George Ulrick, Marcus, L. C. Neiman, Wenzel Sicka, Herman Kollen, Robert Addelman, John McKinsey, Joseph Westerman, Herman Westerman, Amos Wright, Jacob Haen, Sam Malcome.

CHURCHES—

The first church in Piqua was the Methodist. It was built in the east part of the new town in December of 1882. At that time it had about twenty members. We are of the opinion that this is the congregation that held services in the Bramlette school house. A Baptist group was also organized under the leadership of Dr. Huff and their services were held in the Methodist church.

The second church built in Piqua was the Catholic Church that was built in 1885 and was named St. Martin's. The church was named in an interesting way. The ladies of the parish held a contest to see who could raise the most money to defray expenses in the building of the church. Mrs. Martin Klocky was the winner and named the church St. Martin. The church was built in the west part of the town. A two-story rectory was built next to the church and the first resident priest was Father Buchler and the next was Father Fowler and the third was Father Heiman, who was pastor when the present Catholic church was built on the hill south of Piqua. The cornerstone was dated 1920 but the church was completed in 1922.

A third church of the Presbyterian faith was moved into the north part of Piqua. The building was moved from Liberty township in Allen County. The first minister was Rev. S. M. Irvin who lived at Geneva. Rev. Irvin was pastor for several years. Some of the families attending the Presbyterian church were; Eldridge, McCormick, and T. M. Herdman. Mrs. Della Herdman was organist at this church for several years. After a few years this church was moved again, back to Liberty from where it had been moved to Piqua.

PIQUA SCHOOLS–

The first school was built in Piqua in 1882 close to the Katy track on the west side and just north of the east-west track. This was Dist. No. 27 and had been formerly been known as the Bramlette school. The last term at Bramlette was in 1881 and was taught by W. G. McCormick. The first teacher of the new at Piqua was Miss Nanny Stewart. However it was soon found out that the school house was located too close to the railroad tracks. The noise from the trains caused too much confusion and it was moved to the northeast part of the town. The county superintendent at that time was A. F. Palmer. Russell S. Russ taught the Piqua school District 27 in the year 1887 and married one of the pupils, 16-year-old Lillian May Dennison. Mr. Russ was the founder and first principal of the Kansas State College at Pittsburg, Kansas. He served eight years as principal of the college. Mr. Russ celebrated his 102nd birthday on Feb. 19, 1962. His wife was 91 at that time.

On March 13, 1882 the first postoffice was established in Piqua with Murray Street as postmaster. The postoffice was in a small building put up by Street and McClure. They kept a small stock of groceries. This building burned down in December, 1882.

J. W. Kesterson put up a building on the north side of this street and operated a general store for quite some time. Mr. Kesterson came to Yates Center in 1907 and built three brick buildings on the northeast corner of the square and was co-organizer of the State Exchange Bank in Yates Center. The next building to go up in Piqua was the blacksmith shop of John Kipp. John Kipp, Sr. did the woodwork and John Kipp, Jr., did the blacksmith work.

The first hotel in Piqua was built just north of the depot on the east side of the street. It was built and operated by Geo. C. Hays and was known as the Hays House. Mr. Hays later moved to Yates Center. He was a grandfather of the late Mrs. Lila Seiker.

The second hotel was built to the north of the Hays House, across the street from where the bank stood for many years. This hotel was operated for an number of years by Gus Vogelsang who also ran a livery stable in connection with the hotel.

John Harrison and his wife Nan put up a building in which they operated the first hardware store. Later the Harrison's sold out to Wenzel Sicka and George Grogman. This partnership later dissolved. Mr. Sicka selling out to Mr. Grogman, who with his family operated the store. Geo. Grogman later was appointed as postmaster for ten years.

Wenzel Sicka then obtained the store building which was formerly the Kesterson building where he operated a hardware store for a number of years. Mr. Sicka had five sons, John, Henry, Frank, Gus and Ben. He equipped his sons with teams and farm equipment. They farm extensively and baled much hay, having their own crew. Wenzel Sicka was one of the first men in Woodson County to use commercial fertilizer.

THE WENZEL SICKA FAMILY–

Wenzel Sicka was born in Bohemia, near the city of Praque, October 6, 1850. His parents were Martin and Dorothy Sicka and he was the youngest of five children. When he was one year old his parents brought him to the United States and settled in Illinois. On May 20, 1873 Wenzel was married to Miss Mary E. Fahrmann, who was a native of Germany.

In 1880 they came to Woodson County, where they farmed in Owl Creek township for several years, before moving to Piqua where he operated a hardware. Some of the story of this family was told on the preceding page.

Wenzel and Mary Sicka were the parents of nine children all of whom with their spouses are shown in the following picture.

Left to right in back row are—John Sicka who married Tracy Freschenmeyer, and after her death married her sister Dora Freschenmeyer; Henry and his wife, Barbara (Haen) August and wife Anna (Lampe); Frank and wife Mary (Wilkie) Center row—Frank Lampe and wife Frances Sicka; Wenzel and wife Mary; Teresa Sicka and husband Joe Bux. Bottom row-May Riley and husband Ben Sicka; Elizabeth Sicka and husband John Collin Collins; Kate or Katherine Sicka and husband Elmer Long.

These couples all settled in the Piqua vicinity and many of their children and their children and families still live in that vicinity. These are all familiar names around Piqua.

A Mr. Marcus came from Illinois to Piqua and purchased the general store from J. W. Kesterson. Coming as a clerk with Marcus was L. C. Neiman. At Mr. Marcus' death Mr. Neiman purchased the stock of goods from Mrs. Marcus. In a few years Neiman erected a building on the south side of the street which later burned. Mr. Neiman then built the building just west of the bank and conducted a general merchandise store until his death. The store for several years has been operated by his son, Ed Neiman. Mrs. W. J. Riley of Piqua was a daughter of L. C. Neiman. L. C. Neiman was a very active citizen in the little town.

The Patrick O'Donnell family resided in Piqua for nine years or until 1890 when Mr. O'Donnell was given the position as roadmaster from Fort Scott to Wichita. Also a branch from ElDorado to McPherson. The family then moved to a farm which O'Donnell had purchased on Cherry Creek southwest of Piqua. Mr. O'Connell continued to railroad for a number of years. His son Wm. J. O. O'Connell, managed the farm with help from hired hands. When Mr. O'Connell retired the family moved to Yates Center.

Water was quite a problem in the little town until the people got together and dug a well on the south side of the street in front of the present Neiman store. This proved to be a good well and was known to the public and supplied the town and many travelers who would water their horses and fill their jugs and kegs for their use on the road.

In 1887 Robert Addleman came to Piqua. He had a well drill and drilled many water wells in town and this relieved the water situation. Mr. Addleman had the first steam threshing machine in the community. It was an upright engine about eight feet high and mounted on two high wheels. He pulled this machine from one job to another with a yoke of oxen. The seperator was pulled by a team of horses. It was a small machine and did not have a straw carrier so two men stood at the back of the machine and pitched the straw away. The threshing season often lasted until late fall as much of the grain was stacked. Addleman also

had a small grist mill that he operated in the winter. He was father of Mrs. Thomas Herdman.

Ben Addleman was a brother of Robert Addleman, was a carpenter and did much of the building in this community.

The lumber for most of the residences in Piqua was teamed from Iola. The first buildings were hurriedly erected, no wiring, no plumbing, no insullation.

George Wille, a son of an early settler and Josephine DeSmitt, a daughter of an early settler, were married in the year 1886. For their home they built a two-story dwelling in the west part of Piqua, west of the Catholic church. Mr. Wille followed the carpenter trade for a number of years and built many of the houses and barns in the Piqua community. Later he built a grist mill west of his residence which he operated for a number of years.

In 1910 he was co-organizer of the Farmer's State Bank in Piqua and was its first president. His son John was cashier. John Wille continued in the banking business in Piqua for more than 50 years. In 1918, his brother Henry Wille, joined him in the bank and continued till his death in 1953. Mr. and Mrs. George Wille were the parents of two sons, John and Henry, and two daughters, Hannah (Mrs. Henry Kipp), and Rose Wille. Miss Rose Wille still lives in the Wille home.

The second bank was organized in Piqua in 1910, with L. C. Neiman as president and Tony Dieboldt as cashier. The two banks merged in 1914 and the bank has continued since that time as the Piqua State Bank, under the management of John Wille until his death in 1953. Controlling interest was then sold to Webb Dreiling.

M. A. Weckerly came to Piqua in 1883 and built a residence and a building for a restaurant north of the depot which he operated for a number of years. He then moved to Yates Center and operated the Weckerly Hotel and eating house near the depot which was built in the west end of town When the depot was moved up town he moved to Durand and operated that restaurant for a number of years.

George Grogman was postmaster at Piqua for over 12 years. He then moved to Kansas City, Mo. Wm. Grogman and wife came to Piqua from St. Louis. Mr. Grogman was very active in all civic affairs of the little town and served as County commissioner of Woodson County. Piqua was their home until their death.

Herman Kollen came to Piqua about 1886 and built a dwelling east of the the Catholic Rectory, the lower part was used as a furniture store and the family lived upstairs. He was a cabinet maker and made much of the furniture he offered for sale. He also made coffins of solid walnut. Later he sold his building to the Catholic Church and they used it for a parochial school for a number of years. Mr. Kollen then built a store building uptown on the south side of the street and operated a store until his death. H. Kollen was the father of Joe Kollen who lived in Piqua for several years.

The George Ulrick family came to Piqua the same time the Grogman families came. Mrs. Wm. Grogman and Mrs. Ulrick were sisters. Mr. Ulrick

was in the merchantile business. They were the parents of a son Frank and three daughters Clara, Frances, and Julia. The Ulricks lived in Piqua until their death.

In the early eighties a fine old gentleman by the name of Sisson came from the state of New York and settled near Neosho Falls. He had five so sons, Charles, George, William, Fran and Bert. Each of these sons had a good riding horse and they bought livestock along the eastern part of Woodson and western part of Allen County. They loaded their livestock for the Kansas City market either at Neosho Falls or Piqua. The railroad had built a good-sized stock pen at Piqua near the east side track. When they loaded at Piqua, Mr. Sisson would drive from Neosho Falls, the sons would receive and weigh the stock. He stood nearby and paid for the stock in cash bringing the money from Neosho Falls which had a bank at that time.

Some years later Mr. Sisson and four of his sons, George, William, Fran and Bert moved to Yates Center, the other son Charles had returned to New York. The Sissons continued to buy cattle and other livestock for many years. George Sisson was very active in the livestock business. He also served as sheriff of Woodson County. He was one sheriff who never carried a gun. He said that he did not wish to kill anyone and that he stood a better chance to live for if he met an outlaw that the chances were that the outlaw would be faster on the draw. Perhaps no other man was better known in Woodson County than Geo. Sisson.

Two lively young men of the Piqua community were Thomas Herdman and Fred Ream. Each were the owners of good driving teams, not ponies In fact Fred Ream had a pair of brown coach horses with docked tails. Each sported new top buggies which were fine in those days. In winter there was much snow and each of the two young men also had a cutter and sleigh bells.

Thomas Herdman married Dell Addleman. They were the parents of two daughters, Helen (Mrs. H. N. Burnside) and Mary (Mrs. Arthur Shannon) and one son Lloyd Herdman.

Fred Ream married Amie Herdman, and they moved to Chicago, Illinois. (To Be Continued.)

MYRA—

A postoffice was established as early as 1857 at the little frontier town of Belmont. The town of Belmont, along with Fort Belmont, gradually disappeared following the Civil War, but the postoffice along with a general store continued for several years with several different postmasters. W. M. Wamsley was the last postmaster at Belmont, serving from June 6, 1877 until it was discontinued January 23, 1878.

It seems there was no postoffice in the Belmont vicinity for several years or until March 3, 1884, when Wm. L. Bradley established a postoffice at the site of the old Belmont postoffice, which was called Myra.

In the Yates Center News of July 1, 1887, the following ad appeared: "Those wanting dry goods, groceries, etc., will do well to call on Wm. L. Bradley at Myra." Also we find the name of "James Van Wye of Myra." And in the News of February 3, 1888 we find the following items: "4,000 pounds of the Humboldt flour has been received at Myra." "T. L. Palmer has the contract now for carrying the mail from Myra to Yates Center."

Several years we wrote about Myra in the Yates Center News, and received a letter from Emil H. Fulhage of Salina whose letter read in part: "Your article of 75 years ago about the Myra postoffice interested me as that was where we got our mail in the nineties. Our house was two miles west of there (where Charles Fulhage now lives.) I was born in 1886 and as soon as I could walk that was my job to get the mail. It was brought out from Yates Center on Tuesdays and Saturdays. As near as I can remember the last family that lived there was a family by the name of Severt."

Wm. L. Bradley ran the Myra store and postoffice for about ten years or until R. L. Sievert took over as postmaster on April 14, 1894 and was the postmaster until the postoffice was discontinued in March of 1895, and the papers sent to Yates Center. Another part of Mr. Fulhage's letter read; "As the old timers of that time told "In The Beginning ", there was another postoffice in Kansas named Belmont, so to avoid confusion the postoffice was called Myra." The other Belmont was in Kingman County an was established about a year after the Belmont in Woodson son County was discontinued. It would be interesting to know just where the name of Myra derived from.

The Yates Center News of March 11, 1887 carried this item; "The first letter with a special delivery stamp on it was received at the Myra postoffice last week. Nasby had to wade through mud half a mile to deliver the same." (Who was Nasby?)

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 18—PLEASANT VALLEY

Known first as the "Brush" school, district No. 18, had its beginning in 1867, when the district was organized. The first school in the district was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alva Brush, Sr. a mile west and a quarter north of Rose. The teacher of this school was Miss Laura Dumond It was known as a subscription school as the parents had to subscribe so much for each pupil for the privilege of their children to attend the school. The pupils attending this first school were; Addie and Axie Barker, Marcus, Oscar and Lutitia Brush and Lura Dumond.

It was not long before the need arose for a new school building. Undressed lumber was purchased to build a small "Box" school house. Oliver Perry who lived a couple of miles to the east dressed and planed the lumber as the building was put up. Early day teachers in this small, boxlike schoolhouse were; Frank Eagle, Mrs. Anna Everson, Anna Dickerson and Hannah Hale.

In 1882, a stone building was built that is still referred to as "the stone

school house along the highway south and east of Yates Center. The first teacher in the stone school was Mrs. Delia Fleming.

Pleasant Valley school about 1902 – Teacher Nellie Wyse. Front row– left to right; Glenn Roush, Guy McKinsey, J. W. "Jim" Pringle, Riley Robbins, Earl Darst, Stella Shannon, Nellie Hall, Manila Roush-Stoll, Gladys Shannon, Viola Fuller, Ursula Dumond-Brown, Robena Pringle. Miss Wyse, teacher. Back row; Grey, Warner Fuller, George McKinsey, Pleasant Robbins, Clinton Darst, Wm. "Bill" Pool, Archie Taylor, Leonard Pool, Andrew Pringle, Clarence Abbott, Myrtle Pool-Schaede, Margaret Pringle, Fern Hall, Susie Darst-Orbin, Florence Abbott.

THE JOSEPH MILLER FAMILY–

One of the first families to settle in the northwest part of Woodson County and had much to do with building of that part of the county, especially along the Turkey Creek communities.

Joseph Miller was a native of Darke County, Ohio, while his wife, Elizabeth Stines Miller, came from New Jersey. They lived for awhile in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. In 1859 they came with a covered wagon caravan to Kansas stopping for the winter in Anderson County. In the spring of 1860, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller and seven children, George, Helen, Frank, Alice, Christina, Eliza and Mary. We believe that Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Miller and three children and Miss Louisa Morgan were in the same wagon caravan. Louisa Morgan and Mrs. Benj. Miller were sisters.

John Pappenhausen, wife and family came into Liberty township, sometime in 1858. They built a log cabin almost a half mile south of Turkey Creek, (a mile and half west of the present Turkey Creek Church),

along the LeRoy-Eureka wagon trail. One of their daughters whose first name was not given and a fellow named Stolsing have been listed as the first marriage in Liberty township, the wedding taking place in 1858. Evidently during the winter of 1859-60 John Pappenhausen died and was buried just to the west of the cabin, along where the road now runs. Mrs. Pappenhausen and family left this county and moved to near Leavenworth. Later they returned and removed the body of Pappenhausen to near their home.

As mentioned above the Joseph Miller family with ox teams and wagon came to the Pappenhausen cabin. Mr. Miller had purchased what few possessions the Pappenhausen's had. As this country through here was still Indian land the Pappenhausen's had no claim to the land. The Miller's moved into the small log cabin and lived here until sometime in 1861, when this county was opened for pre-emptied by the U.S. Government. Joseph Miller then went to the land office at Ft. Scott to file his claim for 160 acres, 80 acres of this lay east and west along Turkey Creek. The cabin was in the west half of the north-west quarter of section 14-24-14. Sometime later the log cabin was replaced with a larger frame house, and here the rest of the children of this large family were born namely—Elva, Lona, Henry, Asa and Nelson.

Miller received a patent for his land on June 1, 1861 and was signed by Abraham Lincoln, President.

Funeral services were held for Joseph Miller in the Askren Dist. No. 2 school house in October, 1895. His children started to this school when it started in 1865 and some of his descendents attended the school for the next 85 years. For many years there were several families of Miller's and relatives to this Miller family in the northwest part of Woodson County. However 110 years after the Joseph Miller family first came to the county, Melvin M. Miller is the only one of probably a hundred descendants that is still living in that area, although there are several living in Yates Center.

Pictured are several children of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph, and their spouses. Ten of the eleven children living at the time of Joseph Miller's death are pictured. Names of the men in the back row and spouses in front of them are; Henry P. Miller, his wife Addie; Wm. "Billy" Wright, his wife Elva; Frederick Arnold, his wife Helen S., E. Willis Naylor, his wife Margaret Christina; George Miller, his wife Matha "Mattie" Naylor; George Naylor, his wife Alice; Asa W. Miller, his wife Anna. Bottom row, right to left, George Campbell, his wife Eliza; Frank Miller, his wife Ora and Nelson Miller. Lona and her husband Jason Farnum were not in the picture. Children and grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller were:

George Miller was married to Martha Naylor—Children were Frankie (Mrs. Ed Simpson); Bert, Fannie and Belle (Probst)

Helen S. Miller was married to Frederick—their children were; Warren F., Dora, Arnold and Nellie (Mrs. George Manifold.)

Frank was married first to Dora Morgan. After her death he was married to Ora Mitchell—Their children were Walter, Agnes and Bill

Alice was married to George Naylor.

Margaret Christina, known as Aunt Tena, was married to E. Willis Naylor. Their children were Wilbur and Bessie, (Mrs. Charles Lewis).

Eliza was married to George Campbell—They had two sons Sidney and Ira.

Mary died as a young girl.

Elva was married to William "Billy" Wright. Their children were Phronie, Orvil, and Elsie (Whipple) A small boy drowned in Turkey Creek.

Lona was married to Jason Farnum-their children-twins, Addie and Abbie, and Fred.

Henry P. was married to Addie Park-their children were Everett, Henrietta (Cheevers), Cora (Mrs. Arthur Caldwell) and Leslie Miller.

Asa W. was married to Anna Cope—Their children were Melvin M., Loretta (Mrs. W. P. Peters), Elmer T., Margaret C. (Mrs. A. M. Underwood), Thelma (Mrs. Eugene Burns) and Clifford Miller.

Nelson Miller was married to Carrie Peters. They had no children.

Two children died as infants. One in 1868 and the other in 1867. These were evidently buried first near the farmstead and later moved to the family lot in the Askren Cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller, seven of their children and quite a few of their grandchildren are buried in the Askren Cemetery.

Quite a few of the first bridge abutments over Turkey Creek and other streams in the northwest part of the county were built by George, Frank and Henry Miller. Asa Miller, first with his cousin Grant Stines and later with Ed Kimbell handled thousands of cattle each grazing season mostly in the northwest part of this county.

* * * * *

The cover picture of the letter addressed to Peter W. Yohon was loaned to us by Mrs. Marie Yohon. Peter W. Yohon had established the postoffice of Bath in the log cabin home of the Yohons, on Owl Creek, July 9, 1861. The letter addressed to the Postmaster of Bath was dated April 30, 1867. While the postmark is from New York state, the letter was on U. S. Senate Chamber stationary from Washington.

Yohon's acknowledgement was a year later in this manner; "Given under my hand and seal this 30 Day of April A. D. 1868."

Peter W. Yohon Justice of the Peace

Bath, Kans. May 9 A. D. 1868

The letter had requested "Names of the prominent citizens of your place and especially of such as have been in the Military Service of the United States. E. C. Ross.

The stamp on envelope is a 3 cent U. S. postage.

THE BRAZIL FAMILY–

About three miles north and almost a mile west of Toronto a creek flows west into the Verdigris River. The creek heads in the hills several miles to the northeast and is know as Brazil Creek. The name Brazil is spelled several different ways. On a high hill on the north bank of Brazil Creek was the homestead of the Robert Brazil family. Around a quarter mile north of where Brazil Creek runs into the Verdigris. Dry creek empties its water into the river. Between these two creeks was a ford or crossing on the river. On an early day geographic survey map we saw this crossing referred to as the "Brazell Crossing." This was the crossing where the LeRoy-Eureka wagon trail went across the Verdigris, as it came down a hill a half mile west of the Greenwood-Woodson county line.

Early in 1859, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brazil and four sons came to this part of Kansas from Wisconsin. Their home was on the Greenwood side of the county line. (For many years this has been known as the M. E. Black farm.) The four sons were, William W., John, Marion and Jesse. While the Brazil's soon were associated with the pioneer and political activities of Greenwood County, at least one of them, Wm. W. Brazil obtained a homestead in Woodson County. His land that he received a patent for was along the bluff to the east of Toronto Point that was taken over by the Toronto Reservoir. He sold this to Lewis Thompson, another early settler along the Verdigris in September, 1861, 80 acres for the sum of $200. Wallace McCune, Justice of the Peace, of Belmont, transacted the deal.

On April 20, 1862 Wm. W. Brazil was married to Sarah Jane Conners, by John R. Rowe, Minister of the Gospel. It was at a dance at the Wm. Brazil home at that time that an incident occurred that led to the first divorce case in Woodson County. That couples name was Sylvester.

On October 28, 1863, Wm. W. Brazell was commissioned as Captain of Company F, Sixteenth Regiment, Kansas State Militia. His address was given as Greenwood. This company was made up among men in the Verdigris valley.

Wm. W. Brazil, whose nickname was "Bugs", left the Verdigris valley and went to Texas in 1877. In 1881 he moved to New Mexico, near Ft. Sumner where he became a partner in a large ranch. Here also he became involved in the famous Lincoln County War. He and his partner Wilcox were regarded as supporters of Billy the Kid and his gang. Brazil later betrayed Billy the Kid to Pat Garrett who in turned killed Billy the Kid. It seems rather ironical that Wayne Brazil, a nephew of Wm. Brazil was the one who a short time later shot and killed Pat Garrett.

In 1862, when John Brazil was 17 years old, several hundred Keeche and Wichita Indians came to Greenwood County. They were refugees from the Indian Territory to the south. Like most blanket Indians they were fond of gambling. On several occasions John Brazil had gambled with them and he had lost nearly everything he had. One day his luck changed and he won two very fine horses and several ponies. One of these horses seemed to be the pride of the tribe. A few days later as Brazil was riding this horse and returning from a trip and between Fall River and Little Walnut Creek southwest of Toronto, when he was surprised by two Indians who demanded the horse. One grabbed the bridle and the other shot an arrow through the collar of Brazil's coat. At the same time Brazil shot the first Indian, killing him instantly and before the other could string another arrow, Brazil shot him. The latter Indian however lived to reach his camp along the Verdigris River, above Toronto. He lived to tell who shot him and then died. The Indians resolved to avenge him.

For some time John Brazil hid in the cellar under the Brazil house. But John knew that he was endangering the lives of his father and family besides his own so decided to leave home as there were several hundred Indians along the Verdigris River close to their home. Late one afternoon he saddled the fine horse that he had won from the Indians, taking a small lunch and bidding his folks good-bye, John started northeast, mostly following the divide between Brazil and Dry Creeks. As he was crossing the divide from the headwaters of Brazil to the east branch of Dry Creek, known locally as Hyland Branch, (This branch cuts through very close to the Rhea Ranch house.) he passed within about 150 yards of a patch of timber or blackjacks. A shot came from the timber, horse and rider fall- falling in a heap. The shot had hit the horse where the spinal cord unites with the brain, and killed it instantly. When the horse and rider went down Brazil happened to land on the side away from the shot came from. A waiting game was played.

Brazil had drawn his revolver and lay still awaiting to see what would happen next. Although laying along side of his dead horse he was able to partly see the group of trees. After quite a while an Indian came out of

timber with a tomahawk and rifle in his hands and came running for a scalp. Waiting until the Indian was within 25 or 30 feet, Brazil rose up quickly and fired, hitting the Indian in the chest. Though badly hurt the Indian turned and made it back to the patch of timber. Brazil, not knowing whether the Indian was alone or not, did not shoot again but awaited behind his dead horse.

Presently Brazil heard a horse running from the other side of the timber so he knew the Indian was able to ride away and would head for the Indian camp along Dry Creek about two miles to the northwest. This action took place somewhere in section 32-24-14, about two miles to the south and west of the present Kimbell Ranch. With some difficulty Brazil removed the saddle and bridle from his dead horse and then started back towards his father's house some five or six miles. However, when coming he had seen some horses about two miles back, and in some manner managed to catch a good horse. The horse belonged to a neighbor, Philip Menges, who lived on Dry Creek, where the stone house is now owned by Bishop Tracy. John saddled the horse and started out again. By this time it was almost dark. He went north and east as he had before, evidently hitting the LeRoy-Eureka wagon trail. He traveled hard that night going down the Turkey Creek valley. About dawn he reached and swam his horse across the Neosho River, and reached LeRoy about daylight.

Later when he had a chance to write he sent some money to Philip Menges for the horse he had taken along with a letter explaining how he happened to take the horse. Menges told the story to Esquire Robert Daly, his closest neighbor up Dry Creek. Remembering back, Daly who was a trader among the Indians, recalled visiting the Indian camp on Dry Creek about that time and the Indians were burying one of their number, who was evidently the one who shot Brazil's horse and in turn was shot by Brazil. Later, probably the next spring—1863-, when he was 18 years old John Brazel went to Ft. Leavenworth and joined the Sixth Kansas Calvary.

Another brother, Jesse Brazil, emigrated to New Mexico, about the time of his brother William, in 1881. He was accidently killed in 1904 at the Mormon gold mine, east of Las Cruces, on a spot within a few hundred yards of the graves of his brother William and wife. Wayne Brazel was the oldest son of Jesse Brazel and was born at Greenwood City, that was a mile west on U. S. 54 and a mile north of the Woodson County line. He was the one mentioned above as killing the notorious Pat Garrett in November, 1906. This was called self-defense and happened about twelve miles north of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

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We would appreciate any comments on what our readers think about the articles that appear in this publication. Any recommendations or improvements that would help make it more interesting or helpful.

—The Editor

PATRONS OF THE WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John V. Glades Agency
Woodson County Co-op
State Exchange Bank
Street Abstract Co.
Schornick Oil Co.
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods
Walter A. Bowers
Hi-Way Food Basket
Farmers Co-op, Piqua
Gaulding Oil Co.
Harry O. Ashley
Swope & Son Impl. Co.
H.R. Campbell & Sons
Furniture & Undertaking
Clyde Hill
Whelan Lumber Co.
Cantrell Buick-Pontiac
Paul C. Laidlaw
Krueger Cleaners
Gambles—Friendly Store
Rogers Bros. Garage
Mahon Motor Co.
Charles H. Carpenter
Newtex Manufacturing Co.
Yates Center Skelgas Service
J. C. Schnell
Wood-Perkins Dept. Store
Al's Jewelry
First National Bank—Toronto
Security Oil Co.
Blackjack Cattle Co.
Yates Center Elevator Co.
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor—Gen. Agent
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Daly Western Supply
Payeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Atkin Clinic
Dyer Chevrolet Co.
Henry E. Stephenson
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Light Hardware
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Brown's Western Auto
Donald E. Ward
Wilma Mark
Milton Wrampe
E. E. Light
Yates Center News
Everybody's Grocery
Pringle Ranch—J. W. & J. Richard
The Virginian Hotel
Baker Rexall Drug Store
Smith Furniture & Funeral Home